

raleigh arts
COMMISSION

THE RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION, established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, proudly holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Commission's myriad activities foster, support, and promote the arts in the Capital City.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

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BLOCK GALLERY • Municipal Building Art Exhibitions
222 West Hargett Street • Raleigh, NC 27601
919.996.3610 • www.raleighnc.gov/arts

**block 20(10)
EXHIBITING
DICHOTOMIES**



**February 4 -
March 22, 2010**



BlockGallery

About the **CURATORS**

RACHEL BERRY graduated from Davidson College in 2008 with a B.A. in art history. She is currently Director of Programs and Exhibitions at Visual Art Exchange (VAE) in Raleigh, where she has coordinated over 60 exhibits. In November 2009, Berry curated eNTER aCTION, which featured new media work by Michael Fels, Dana Raymond, Sally Van Gorder, William Booth Taylor and Ronald Lambert.

SARAH POWERS has been a gallery professional and exhibition artist for nine years, managing the coordination and installation of more than 350 exhibitions in North Carolina and Rhode Island. Powers holds a B.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design and is an active exhibiting artist who is represented locally by The Mahler Fine Art gallery.

CURATORS' STATEMENT

dual/fOCUS featuring the work of photographers and printmakers, seeks to explore the use of technology in art. Both media have roots in commercial image making and are used beyond the gallery. *dual/fOCUS* challenges viewers to explore new ways to create images and recognize the historical use of commercial methods.

Photography and printmaking processes allow for experimentation and manipulation. These technologies also facilitate the repetition of an image in multiple versions and formats. This concept resonates in our contemporary lives, as we are surrounded by visual media and have opportunities to self-publish our images and ideas.

Rachel Berry + Sarah Powers

dual/
FOCUS

February 4 - March 22, 2010

OPENING RECEPTION:

Thursday, February 4, 5-7 p.m.
Featuring music by Starmount

CURATORS: Rachel Berry + Sarah Powers

ARTISTS: Jason Arthurs • Gabriella Corter •

Mary Shannon Johnstone • Judy Jones •

Mary Kay Kennedy • Julie Niskanen •

Alison Overton • Kristianne Ripple • Susan Soper

Cases feature digital fiber art by Tricia McKellar.



BlockGallery

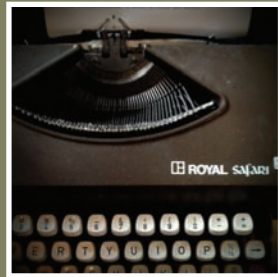
Connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach since 1984.

Cover Images: Alison Overton, *Gumdrop Trees I*; Mary Kay Kennedy, *Shift*; Julie Niskanen, *Refuge*.

JASON ARTHURS jason@jasonarthurs.com



Constantly in awe of the world around me, I use digital photography to share my curiosity and surprise viewers with a unique view of their reality. Recently divorced from the constraints of the newspaper photo-journalism style that bred my vision, my new work is based on combining more modern digital photography techniques with my documentary ideals.



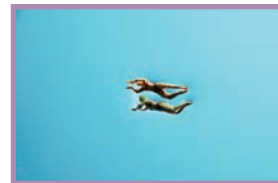
Jason Arthurs is a photographer based in Raleigh. He was named North Carolina Photographer of the Year in 2005 and 2006 by the North Carolina Press Photographers Association, with portfolios containing work from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a documentary project in India, and a story about a young mother battling terminal cancer. Arthurs graduated from UNC at Chapel Hill, where he studied photojournalism and history.

Images: Jason Arthurs, *Untitled 3*; Gabriella Corter, *I Reflect*.

GABRIELLA CORTER magicrabbit@nc.rr.com



Penguins peek around icebergs at sunbathers. Women swim timelessly through Jell-O. The Grim Reaper obliterates the bubbles of life. Each scene is set up to depict a narrative which the viewer plays out in their imagination. None of these photos has been digitally altered which leaves all action contained therein spontaneous—the shimmering, the bubble-popping and the shadows are serendipitous.



Gabriella Corter has been living in Raleigh for the past five years, although she spent most of her life in Canada. After graduating from the University of British Columbia with a B.A. in English Literature, she moved to Toronto to complete a painting degree at the Ontario College of Art and Design. She has had solo shows in Vancouver, Toronto and Raleigh and continues to exhibit in Raleigh at Rebus Works, Knockabout, and Visual Art Exchange.

MARY SHANNON JOHNSTONE

info@shannonjohnstone.com



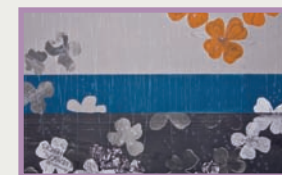
While on a trip to North Carolina's coast with my family, I photographed my nieces, hoping to capture them reveling in the sand and surf. However, when I developed the negatives, the images expressed another story. They visualize an odd sensation I have every time I visit the beach—it is as if I am caught between two places, drifting in and out. I hope these images resonate with the viewer in the same manner.



Mary Shannon Johnstone received her B.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an M.F.A. in photography from Rochester Institute of Technology. She has had solo exhibitions in Chicago, Durham, Raleigh, and Rochester. Most recently, she was awarded the 2009 Carter Foundation Scholarship from Maine Media Workshops.

Images: Mary Shannon Johnstone, *La Mia Sorella*; Judy Jones, *Punctuated Equilibria: The Great Deluge*.

JUDY JONES jumpinjin2@bellsouth.net



I like science...I am stunned by Darwinism and the way environment, culture and idiosyncratic events (punctuated equilibria) change every living thing. So, the more we do, the more things change. The four-petaled flower (Cruciferae) is my icon. Like a little kid I have recently witnessed giving animation to a toy car, this is what I can do with my icon—create something of my own imagining.

Judy Jones is a printmaker and art educator living in Raleigh. A native of western New York, she received her M.A.Ed. with a concentration in printmaking from East Carolina University and her B.A. from UNC Pembroke. Selected exhibitions include the 24th Annual Competition for NC Artists at the Fayetteville Museum of Art, First Place in Printmaking at the Fine Arts Festival at the Arts Council of Moore County in Pinehurst, and Rocking the Plate Exhibition of Mezzotints at the Upfront Gallery at Artspace.

MARY KAY KENNEDY marykaykennedy@me.com



Many people believe that photographs tell the truth; I believe that photographs lie. The photographer allows the viewer to see only what the photographer wants, eliminating the seconds before and after...creating a deception. The mark of a great photograph is one that leaves the viewer believing that what is in front of their eyes is the only thing that was there; they do not need or want to see beyond the edges of the frame.

Mary Kay Kennedy's interest in photography was piqued when her uncle gave her an old 110 film camera at the age of 12. She grew up in Glendale, Arizona and graduated in 2003 from Arizona State University with a B.F.A. in photography. She currently resides in Raleigh, where she is the general manager for both The Mahler Fine Art and The Collectors Gallery and continues to pursue her art career. Her works have been exhibited in North Carolina and southern California and are held in corporate collections including Credit Suisse and Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog, Raleigh and Quintiles, Inc., Wilmington.



Images: Mary Kay Kennedy, *Norbert's*; Julie Niskanen, *Dispersion*.

JULIE NISKANEN julie@julieniskanen.com

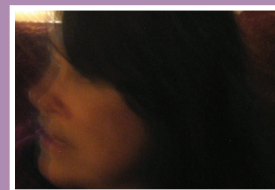


The natural forms that permeate our world too often become background patterns in our hectic lives. Examining these organic forms allows me to reflect on the human disregard for so many things, while also reflecting on and bringing forth these rhythms of nature that are often unnoticed in our lives. The printmaking processes I use give me an invaluable vocabulary of marks that feeds my thoughts and work.



Julie Niskanen received an M.F.A. in printmaking from the University of South Dakota, where she also managed the fine art gallery and taught drawing classes. Julie now lives in Raleigh, where she works as a professional artist and teaches art courses at Fayetteville Technical Community College and Central Carolina Community College. During 2009, she had mezzotints and etchings on exhibit in Yekaterinburg, Russia; Washington D.C.; Los Angeles; Hilo, Hawaii; Savannah; Raleigh; and Fayetteville.

ALISON OVERTON overtonalison@earthlink.net



Making art, in particular photographs that chronicle a moment in a changing landscape, is my passion. I love to utilize simple, manual film cameras such as the Holga 120S and the Widelux F6 to capture images that have an ethereal and timeless quality. By combining overlapping exposures, careful cropping and finally overpainting with transparent oil paints, the finished works reveal my idea of these places as they might appear in a daydream or on another plane of existence, as if our rules of time, space and perspective did not apply.



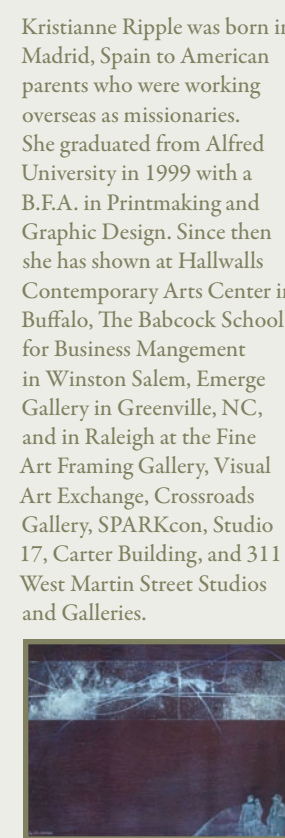
A native of North Carolina, Alison Overton has been photographing since 1980. She is a 1982 graduate of North Carolina State University with a B.A. in environmental design. She is represented by Gallery 12 12 in Richmond, Virginia, and Flanders Gallery in Raleigh and maintains Studio 208 at Artspace.

Images: Alison Overton, *Gumdrop Trees I*; Kristianne Ripple, *Celestial Latitudes*.

KRISTIANNE RIPPLE kristianneripple@crossroads.org



My current work depicts journeys we take, sometimes physical and sometimes mental. Recently my dad gave me a science encyclopedia from the 1950s. Most of my work in this exhibition includes charts or formulas from that book; I have been exploring how scientific charts and formulas can speak about the physical and mental journeys we take.



Kristianne Ripple was born in Madrid, Spain to American parents who were working overseas as missionaries. She graduated from Alfred University in 1999 with a B.F.A. in Printmaking and Graphic Design. Since then she has shown at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center in Buffalo, The Babcock School for Business Mangement in Winston Salem, Emerge Gallery in Greenville, NC, and in Raleigh at the Fine Art Framing Gallery, Visual Art Exchange, Crossroads Gallery, SPARKcon, Studio 17, Carter Building, and 311 West Martin Street Studios and Galleries.

SUSAN SOPER wyomingsoper@hotmail.com



Susan Soper was born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island. She attended the State University College at Buffalo, where she earned a B.S. in Graphic Design and a minor in Art Therapy. She was juried into Artspace Artists Association in Raleigh in 2006 and maintains Studio 102 at Artspace.



Image: Susan Soper, *Reminiscing*.

dual/focus ARTWORK

title	date	dimensions (inches)	price
Jason Arthurs, iPhone photographs <i>Untitled 1-4, 7, 8</i>	2009	11 x 11	\$250 each

Gabriella Corter, digital photographs			
<i>I Reflect</i>	2008	16 x 24	\$275
<i>It's Getting Hot in Here (Global Warming)</i>	2008	14 x 24	\$275
<i>Sumo Reflections</i>	2008	8 x 10	\$175
<i>Into the Jell-O Dimension</i>	2009	16 x 24	\$275
<i>Marbles 1</i>	2009	16 x 24	\$275
<i>Marbles 3</i>	2009	16 x 24	\$275

Mary Shannon Johnstone, selenium toned silver gelatin photographs			
<i>Dal Vento</i>	2007	7 x 7	\$800
<i>Fuori Fuoco</i>	2007	7 x 7	\$800
<i>La Mia Sorrella</i>	2007	7 x 7	\$800
<i>Saltare Come Un Leone</i>	2007	7 x 7	\$800
<i>Sorellina</i>	2007	7 x 7	\$800
<i>Volare Come Un Aquilone</i>	2007	7 x 7	\$800

Judy Jones, relief with stencils, chine colle, graphite and white charcoal drawing			
<i>Irreducible Complexity</i>	2008	27 x 24	\$450
<i>Actinomorphism</i>	2009	19.5 x 23	\$450
<i>Chemosystematics</i>	2009	19 x 24	\$450
<i>Genetic Differention</i>	2009	19 x 22.5	\$450
<i>Punctuated Equilibria: The Great Deluge</i>	2009	20 x 24	\$450
<i>Random Events: The Struggle for Dominance</i>	2009	20 x 24	\$450

title	date	dimensions (inches)	price
Mary Kay Kennedy, digital photographs			
<i>I-10, Between Phoenix and LA</i>	2007	12 x 18	\$175
<i>Mile 225, New Mexico</i>	2007	12 x 18	\$175
<i>Somewhere Over Utah</i>	2007	12 x 18	\$175
<i>Norbert's</i>	2008	12 x 18	\$175
<i>Shift</i>	2009	12 x 18	\$175
<i>Veer</i>	2009	12 x 18	\$175

Julie Niskanen, mezzotint printmaking			
<i>Sanctuary</i>	2007	18 x 24	\$770
<i>Illusionary Reflection</i>	2008	16 x 20	\$750
with etching, aquatint, spit-bite			
<i>Rejuvenating Journey</i>	2008	18 x 24	\$750
with aquatint, spit-bite			
<i>Taking Root</i>	2008	5 x 7	\$325
<i>Dispersion</i>	2009	8 x 6	\$375
<i>Refuge</i>	2009	6 x 8	\$375
with hand coloring			

Alison Overton, oil on archival silver gelatin photographs			
<i>Bountiful Sky</i>	2009	10 x 10	\$550
<i>Finger Branches</i>	2009	10 x 10	\$550
<i>Gumdrop Trees I</i>	2009	10 x 10	\$550
<i>Portal to Light II</i>	2009	10 x 10	\$550
<i>Sailing a Sea of Grass</i>	2009	10 x 10	\$550
<i>Seven Sisters</i>	2009	10 x 10	\$550

title	date	dimensions (inches)	price
Kristianne Ripple, printmaking			
<i>Backpacker</i>	2008	9 x 2	\$85
drypoint etching			
<i>Celestial Latitude</i>	2008	24 x 36	\$325
solar etching on woodcut			
<i>Distance</i>	2008	14 x 9	\$120
drypoint etching with archival print			
<i>Journey</i>	2008	14 x 9	\$120
drypoint etching with archival print			
<i>City Trail</i>	2009	20 x 16	\$310
pronto plate lithograph on deconstructive screenprint			
<i>Line 177</i>	2009	6 x 28	\$310
drypoint etching with chine collé lithograph			

Susan Soper, waterless lithographs			
<i>Reminiscing</i>	2007	8 x 7.2	\$450
<i>First Born, Last Born</i>	2008	12 x 7	\$400
<i>Unrealized Dreams</i>	2008	8 x 10	\$400
<i>Emerging</i>	2009	10 x 8	\$450
<i>Half Woman, Half Child</i>	2009	10 x 8	\$450
<i>Seeking Answers</i>	2009	9 x 6	\$375

block gallery 20(10) EXHIBITING DICHOTOMIES

dual/focus, February 4 - March 22, 2010

Artists: Jason Arthurs, Gabriella Corter, Mary Shannon Johnstone, Judy Jones, Mary Kay Kennedy, Julie Niskanen, Alison Overton, Kristianne Ripple, Susan Soper. Cases feature art by Tricia McKellar.

Guest Curators: Rachel Berry + Sarah Powers

Opening reception featuring performance by Starmount: Thursday, February 4, 5-7 p.m.

home/journeys, April 8 - May 24, 2010

Artists: Kathy Brancato, Kenneth Eugene Peters. Cases features art by Mikel Robinson.

Opening reception featuring literary reading: Thursday, April 8, 5-7 p.m.

earth/sky, June 3 - July 26, 2010

Artists: Gene Furr, Anna Podris. Cases features art by Bill Wallace.

Opening reception featuring dance performance: Thursday, June 3, 5-7 p.m.

over/under, August 5 - September 20, 2010

Artists: Eduardo Lapetina, Kristan Five Skinner. Cases features art by Maureen McGregor.

Opening reception featuring jazz music: Thursday, August 5, 5-7 p.m.

rew/ffwd (rewind/fast forward), September 30 - November 22, 2010

Artists: Georges Le Chevallier, Brian Gonzales, Garrett Scales. Cases features a display by NCSU Textile and Apparel Technology and Management students.

Opening reception featuring live music: Thursday, September 30, 5-7 p.m.

The 8th National Arts Program Exhibition, December 2, 2010 - January 17, 2011

Celebrating artwork by City of Raleigh and Wake County employees and their families, co-sponsored by the Raleigh Arts Commission and the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

Opening reception featuring bluegrass music: Thursday, December 2, 5-7 p.m.



STARMOUNT

Named after a forgotten neighborhood in Raleigh, Starmount was formed in 2007 by veteran musician, producer, and engineer, Greg Elkins, who had long been enamored of the rich mournful voice of the pedal steel guitar but had just begun to learn to play it himself. Enlisting Dave Pitts on upright bass, Brian J. Donohoe on drums and electronic percussion and Rob Davis on synthesizers, Starmount was born.

TRICIA McKELLAR *2nd floor cases*
tricia@triciamckellar.com

I create textile and digital collages from hand-dyed fabrics and digital photographs. I am fascinated by natural patterns, man's machines, and the everyday junk all around us. My works often wrestle with a theme that returns to me over and over again; how does all the stuff of our lives fit together?

I hand-dye shibori fabric; my shibori is a modern adaptation of traditional Japanese hand-dye methods. Collected digital images of machines, vintage photographs, kitschy junk and natural patterns form a soup of design and chance. Each work is an exploration of another permutation of the natural and the digitally derived.

Tricia McKellar is a mixed media artist and photographer from North Carolina. Her formal studies were in math & computer science; she is largely a self-taught artist. Workshops with shibori masters Jan Myers Newbury and Yoshiko Wada provided a strong foundation for exploring the traditional Japanese fabric dye techniques. An exhibiting artist since 2005, Tricia's work can be found in the permanent collection of Duke Hospital and in offices around the Triangle.



Tricia McKellar, *Puzzle* (top) and *Garden* (bottom).

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Block Gallery Coordinator

Marie Smith*

Database Assistant

***Part-time**

BLOCK GALLERY

For 26 years, the Block Gallery has served as a pivotal exhibition space in the City of Raleigh, connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach. Managed by the Raleigh Arts Commission, the gallery was dedicated in 2006 to honor community leader Miriam Preston Block. Located in downtown Raleigh's municipal building at 222 West Hargett Street, the gallery is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed on city holidays).

Gallery information, dates and times are subject to change.